

ON THE ISTHIMUS WITH A CAMERA

E. W. PICKARD

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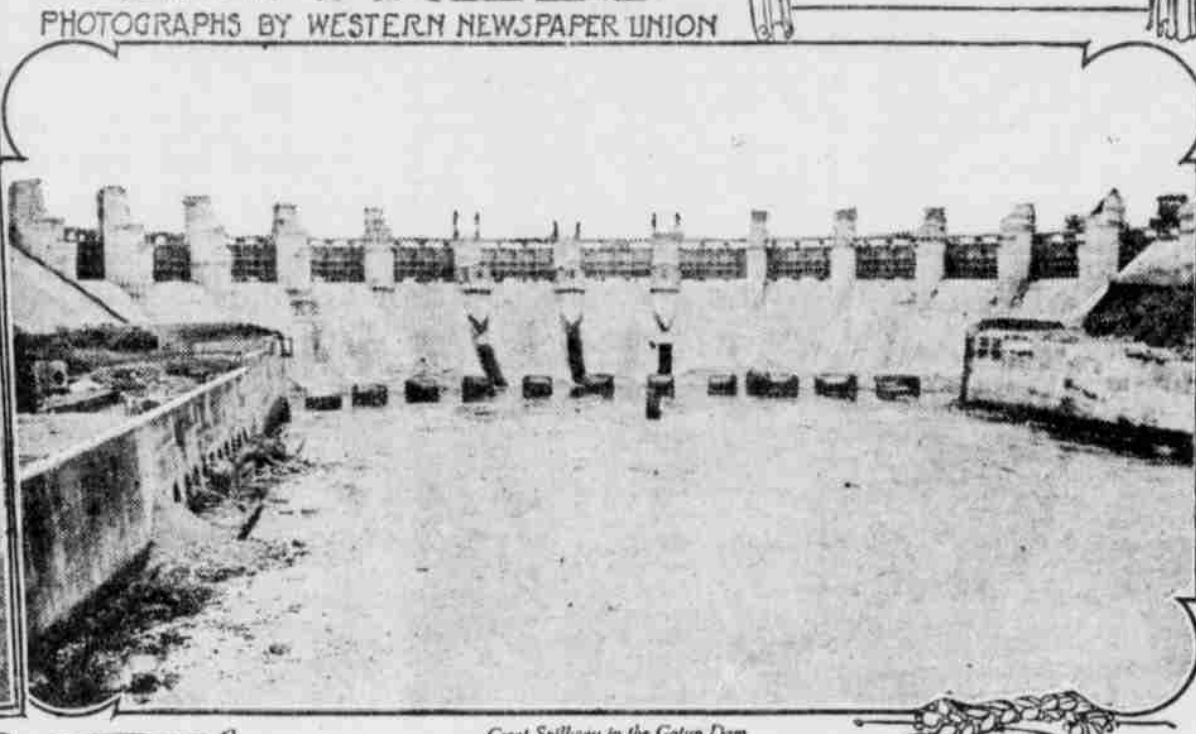
The Cathedral of Panama City, a fine specimen of Spanish-American architecture.



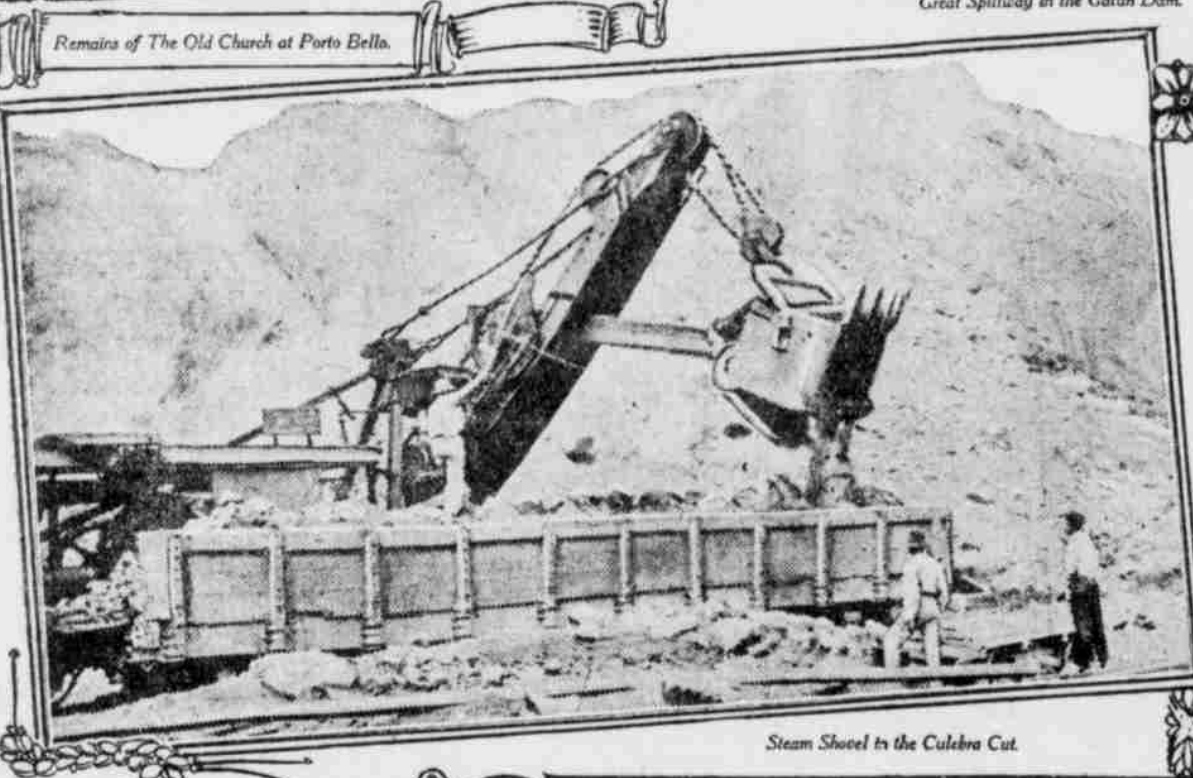
Ruins of Old Panama, showing the unusual circular window.



Remains of The Old Church at Porto Bello.



Great Spillway in the Gatun Dam.



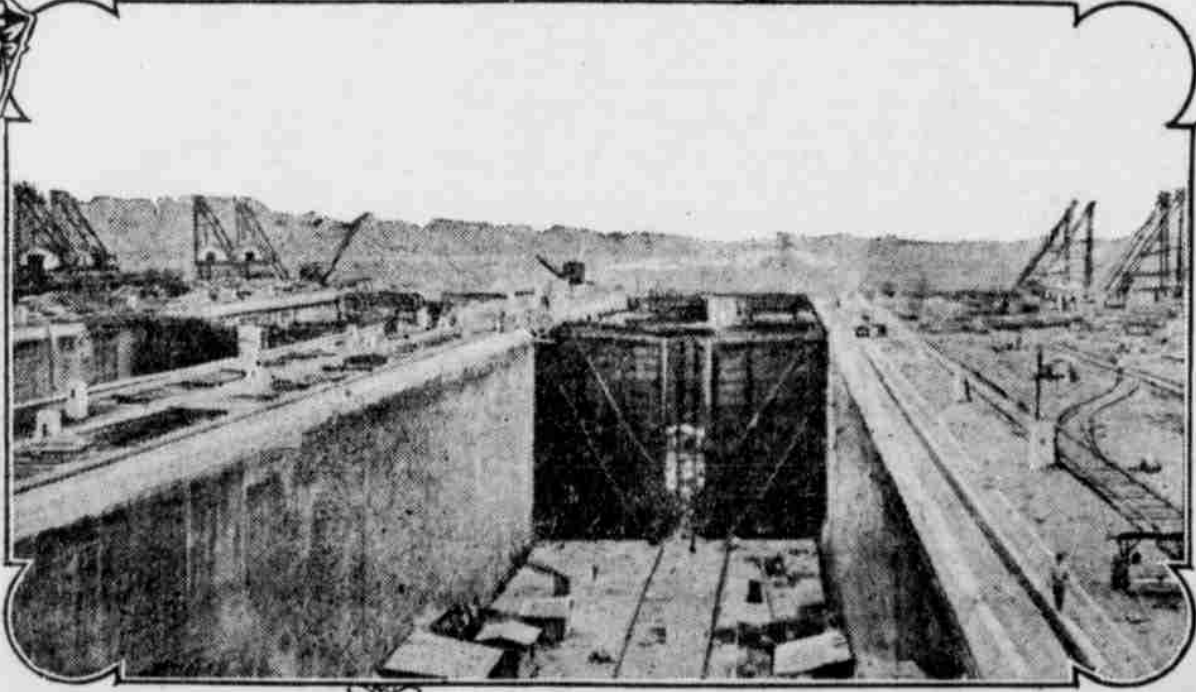
Steam Shovel in the Culebra Cut.



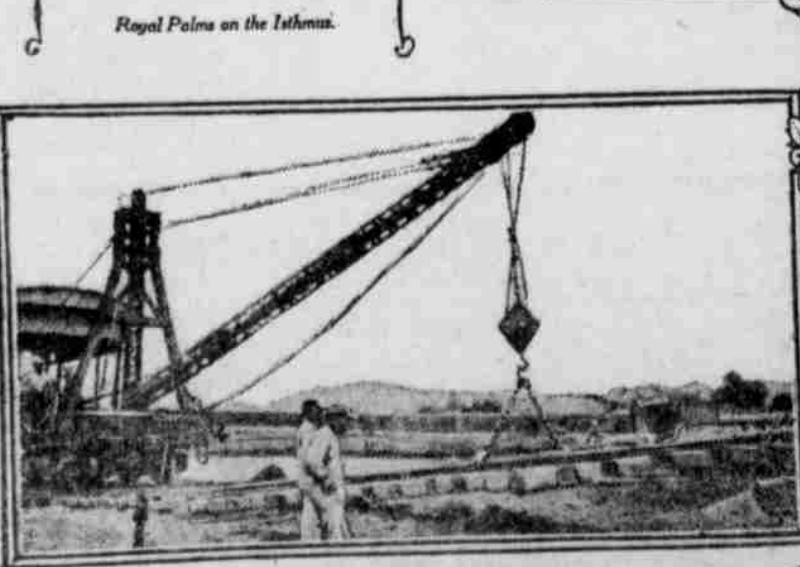
The Church of Santa Ana, Panama.



Royal Palms on the Isthmus.

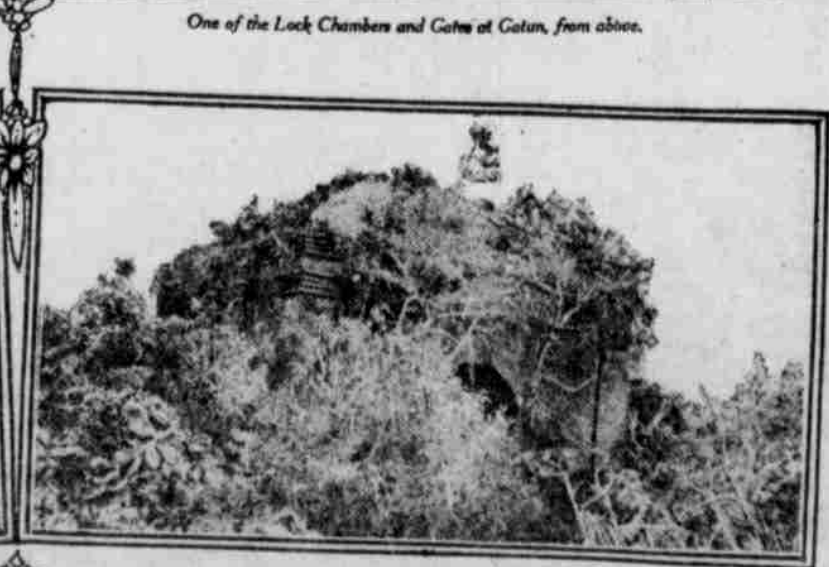


One of the Lock Chambers and Gates of Gatun, from above.



Truck Shifter, which does the work of many men.

This device was invented especially for use on the canal work, where frequent shifting of tracks has been necessary.



Turned on Top of Fort San Lorenzo, at mouth of the Chagres.

San Lorenzo castle was captured by Henry Morgan's men in 1670 before he destroyed Panama.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

LESSON FOR AUGUST 3

THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT.

LESSON TEXT—Ex. 10:1-20 (cf. Ex. 7:8-11:10).

GOLDEN TEXT—"Whoever shall exalt himself shall be humbled; and whosoever shall humble himself shall be exalted."—Mt. V. Matt. 23:12.

While this Psalm is a succinct statement of all that is contained in Exodus, chapters 7 to 12, still no teacher can judge himself as having made proper preparation who has not studied carefully the earlier record. Beginning with those of discomfort the plagues become more and more severe until the last and the crowning one, the death of the first born, caused the Egyptians to thrust out the Israelites with haste and gladness, laden with an abundance of "spoils." Pharaoh trusted in the superior greatness of the Egyptian gods, he also had great pride in his absolute power and hated to lose the profitable service of his Hebrew slaves. Over against this was God's right to demand the worship of his chosen people, God's profuse warnings to the proud Egyptian, and the inevitable outcome of the man, tribe, or nation who sets up human will in opposition to the plans of an Omnipotent God. True thanksgiving and praise are based upon "His marvelous works" (v. 5 R. V.).

Israel Made Strong.

I. The Induction of Israel into Egypt, vv. 23-25. By "Israel" in verse 23 the Psalmist does not refer to the nation but rather to the supplanter who became "Israel, a prince." His induction into Egypt was in accordance with God's purposes and plan, yes, his specific command, Gen. 46:27, Acts 7:9-15. God increased the descendants of Israel greatly in the land of Egypt, see v. 24. At the same time God made those same descendants stronger than their "adversaries" on account of the fact that Jehovah fought on their side, see Rom. 8:31.

II. The Exodus of Israel From Egypt, vv. 26-36. Now the Psalmist is referring to the nation. In Exodus there are recorded ten plagues, here there are mentioned but eight. The plague of the murrain of beasts and the plague of boils, the fifth and the sixth, are here left out for some reason best known to the Psalmist. God saw the afflictions of Israel but sends relief through human agents. Moses was God's "servant" (v. 26) and Aaron "His chosen" (I Sam. 12:6) so also is every true believer. Their work has to "show" (v. 27) God's wonders in the land of Egypt (Ham). They were to show "His" wonders, signs, the "Words of His signs" (R. V. marg.), and none of their own. In other words they were to be the visible embodiment of God's character and power.

Worshipped the Nile.

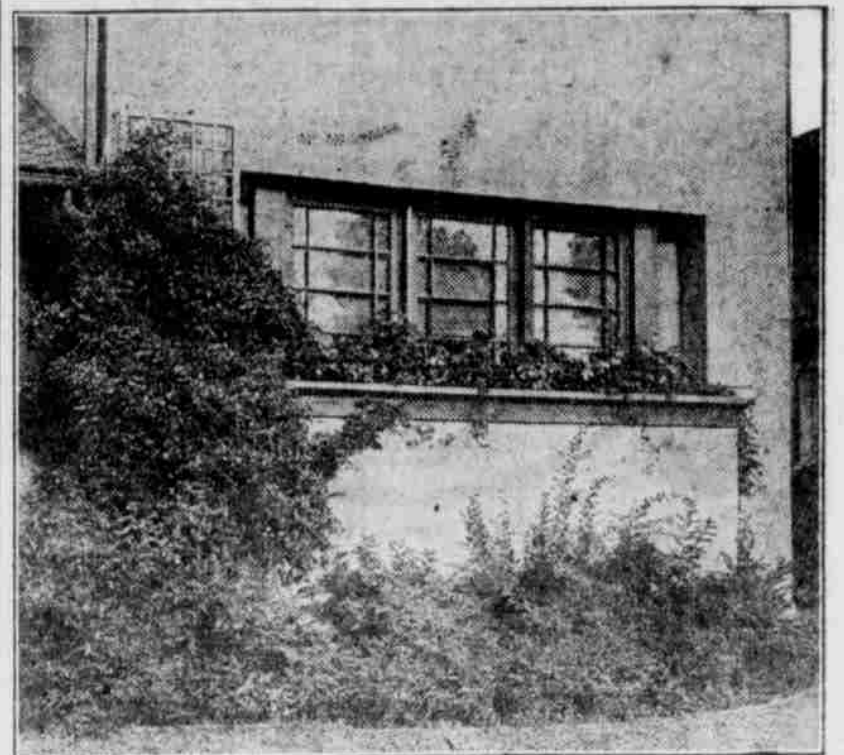
The Psalmist then turns to the first of the historic plagues. The Egyptians were so dependent upon the Nile that they personified it and worshipped it. They had shed the blood of the Israelites and were given blood to drink, see Rev. 16:5, 6 and Gal. 6:7. The third plague was directed against the goddess "Hekt," queen of two worlds, and who was represented by a frog-like figure, see Ex. 8:8. It was after this calamity that Pharaoh temporized. The third and fourth plagues are grouped together in verse 31. God often uses very little things to humble the great ones of earth. Life is made up of trifles, but life is no trifle. Pharaoh had proudly boasted of his agnosticism (Ex. 5:2) but when he sought to try conclusions with God and said, "Neither will I let Israel go" God let him wrestle with frogs, lice and flies. We thus see a man setting himself against God who is not able to overcome these smallest of pests. As we have mentioned, the fifth and sixth plagues are omitted from this record, hence the plague mentioned in v. 32 is in reality the seventh (Ex. 9). It was a rebuke to the God of the air, and from Rev. 8:7 and 16:21 we learn that it is to be repeated in the end of time.

Though Israel was free from the eighth, the plague of locusts (v. 34) they did suffer from a like experience in later days, Joel 1:1-7. These small pests can turn a fruitful land into a barren waste.

But the culminating plague (v. 35) was the smiting of the first born. Even Israel could not escape this calamity except by the previous shedding of blood, Ex. 12:1-18. God gave Pharaoh ample warning, Ex. 4:23. Refusing to yield under the lesser judgments, God brought this supreme penalty, smiting all the first born, "the beginning of all their strength" (R. V. marg. v. 36).

III. The Teaching. Before the plagues Pharaoh was warned; before the second one he was given an opportunity to repent and because of the suffering thereby he relented and asked for a respite. Refusing to declare God's greatness (Ex. 8:10) "he (Pharaoh) made heavy his heart" (Ex. 8:15), an act of his own, not an act of God. No warning is given of the third plague for Pharaoh had broken faith. The acknowledgment upon the part of his magicians of a power greater than their own did not serve as a warning and he continued in his rebellion.

SPARE MINUTE GARDENS FOR BUSY WOMEN



Old-Fashioned Flowers Make Attractive Showing in Window Boxes.

(By LULU G. PARKER.) These spare-minute gardens, designed for busy women, are not formal affairs, they are border beds about 2 by 8 feet in size and should be planted along the walks, driveways, or fences.

The writer has tried every plant recommended and combined them, as here suggested, with nothing but success.

Get good seed from a reliable seedman. Phlox will not germinate at all unless it is fresh. Cheap balsam seed will produce poor flowers.

Plant tall sorts in a row at the back. Medium sized sorts in clumps of a dozen seedlings or more, and use the low growing sorts for edging.

Any of these little gardens will furnish enough cut flowers for the table, with a few to give away, beside brightening the yard from June until frost.

Five minutes each day or half an hour once a week given up to stirring the top soil and weeding, will be all the attention required after the planting is done.

No. 1. Annuals for a sunny garden with plenty of water. Flowers from June until November.

One packet Cosmos, early flowering, 3 to 4 feet; blooms in July until frost. Start seed indoors and transplant 6 feet apart in the garden in May.

One packet Balsam, 1 to 1½ feet; blooms June and July. Sow in the garden in May—thin or transplant 10 in. apart.

One packet Phlox Drummondii, 6 in. to 1 foot; blooms June and July.

One packet Dahlia, 18 inches to 2 feet; blooms September and October. Start seed in the house, set in garden one foot apart after danger from frost is past.

One packet Sweet Alyssum, 6 in.; June to November. Sow seed in the garden early. This Alyssum will thrive in a damp place as well.

No. 2. Garden in a dry sandy soil. These plants will require no watering during the driest summer, if weeds are

kept out and the soil is mulched with old manure or lawn clippings, or if the plants are set close enough together to shade the ground after July 1st.

One packet Climbing Nasturtium, 4 to 6 feet; blooms July until frost. Set seed 1 inch deep in May.

One packet Nicotiana Affinis, 2 to 3 feet; July until frost. Start in May 1 foot apart.

One packet Candytuft, 1 foot; June and July. Sow seed early in the garden.

One packet Poppy, 1 to 1½ feet; July and August. Mix seed with sifted soil, sow the earlier the better. Firm the soil with a board or the hand but do not cover. Not easily transplanted.

One packet Petunia Dwarf, 6 in.; July to September. Start in the house for early bloom. Grown anywhere. Portulaca (Rose Moss) is another annual for a dry soil. Grows in a sand pile, 6 inches. Sow the seed in middle of May.

No. 3. A handy garden that will bloom the first year with a light straw winter protection and improve in appearance from year to year.

After the first planting they will require only an occasional mulch of old manure. Pull the weeds and thin the plants when they begin to crowd, which will not be before the third spring.

Start all these seeds in the hot bed or a box of fine soil in a sunny window.

One packet Hollyhock, 4 to 6 feet; July to August. Get a single early blooming.

One packet Delphinium (Hardy Larkspur), 1 to 3 feet; June to July.

One packet New England Aster, 1 to 2 feet; July to the end of August. Sow seed out of doors early.

One packet Pompon Chrysanthemums, 1 to 3 feet; October until snow flies.

In October plant bulbs of daffodils, late tulips and crocus in this garden to have flowers from March 15th until November with practically no work.

PROPER PACKING OF IMPORTANCE

Careless and Unfair Preparation Causes Immense Loss to the Producer.

(By M. ROBERTS CONOVER, New Jersey.)

Because of the circuitous route from producer to consumer, farm products actually have a greater monetary value at the consumer's end, although they have greatly deteriorated in quality.

This increase in monetary value is due to the merchant's profits, their cost of handling and the losses which they entail in the decay of the perishable products.

These conditions which decrease the producer's returns and augment the price to the consumer, can only be relieved when a more simple system of transfer from country grower to the city retail buyer has been evolved. These, however, are one source of loss which can, to a certain extent, be obviated; that is that loss of perishable fruits and vegetables which arises from careless packing and bulky packages requiring rehandling of the contents.

Careless and unfair packing by the producer receives retribution more quickly than do the dishonest, scant packages and measures of the middleman—except where special legislation is operating against them.

The man who makes a practice of poor packing quickly undoes himself and makes a great barrier against the future consideration even though he reforms.

Attractive market packages leave the hands of the commission merchant quickly at a good price, while the poorly packed produce lingers and suffers from the delay.

Graded fruits and vegetables, in packages of standard sizes makes an immediate appeal to the retail merchant as he can calculate closely his probable returns from the ultimate sale.

Just so with the small packages for the small fruits which contain

an amount sufficient for the average buyer. Such can be passed on to the consumer without the repacking that is necessary where a greater bulk of the fruit is massed together.

Potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets and such fruits as apples, pears and quinces so packed and graded that they will keep for several weeks are best shipped in a barrel.

The standard produce barrel, according to the New York state law, must measure 17½ inches, head diameter, 28½ inches length of stave, with the bulge not less than 48 inches, outside measure.

Such a barrel holds three bushels, and when filled with potatoes must weigh 174 pounds.

Cantaloupes, eggplants, peppers, etc., may be shipped in barrels, half barrels, baskets or in peach baskets or crates, as these are frequently retailed by the piece, smaller packages are of no particular advantage.

Crates should measure 12x14x16 inches, and should hold one heaped bushel—40 quarts used level full, for the sale of onions and all produce ultimately retailed by heaped measure.

Berries, grapes, plums and small fruits are bought in small quantities by the consumer, and for these the quart, its divisions and its multiples are in line with the standard requirements.

Apples and pears, for long keeping and long distance shipping, require double headed barrels. Only sound, hard fruit should go into these.

Discourage Cabbage Worms.

We have seen green cabbage worms very much discouraged by the following process: Sprinkle common wheat flour on the plants, or better, on boards or leaves just under the plants in the evening. When the dew falls a sticky mass is formed and the worm becomes tangled up in this and dies or falls an easy victim to the birds.

Canadian Farm Land.

There were approximately 15,000, 000,000 acres of land under cultivation in the prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1912. From this area it is estimated that \$200,000,000 will be realized by the farmers for their crops.